

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A toy building block including:

(a) a first pair of respectively transversely extending face panels provided with male gender connection formation means facilitating connection with respective adjacently arranged blocks, the male gender connection formation means for each face panel comprising at least two substantially identical studs, the first pair of face panels defining male gender face panels; and

(b) a second pair of respectively transversely extending face panels provided with female gender connection formation means facilitating connection with respective adjacently arranged blocks, the female gender connection formation means for each face panel comprising at least two substantially identical sockets, wherein the sockets are shaped and dimensioned to be interference-fit engageable with respective studs on adjacently connecting corresponding blocks, the second pair of face panels defining female gender face panels,

wherein the studs and sockets on the face panels of the block being so spaced and configured to permit connection with opposite gender face panels in a plurality of connection configurations, including a face panel aligned configuration and a face panel overlap configuration, and the male gender connection formation means on the first pair of respectively transversely extending face panels being on opposed faces to said female gender connection formation means on the second pair of respectively extending face panels, said first and second pair of face panels defining a unitary wall around the toy building block.

2. (currently amended) A toy building block according to claim 1, wherein the studs and sockets on the male and female gender face panels are spaced from one another by a distance of substantially $2x$, where x is a the distance between an the edge of a the panel

and ~~a~~ the nearest extremity of a respective stud or socket.

3. (currently amended) A toy building block according to claim 2, wherein ~~a~~ the distance between ~~the~~ extremities of an adjacent two of said at least two substantially identical studs is substantially $2x$, and the distance between the extremities of an adjacent two of said at least two substantially identical sockets is substantially $2x$.

4. (currently amended) A toy building block according to claim 1, wherein ~~an~~ the outer perimeter of the face panels is substantially square such that ~~an~~ the overall configuration of the block is cuboid.

5. (currently amended) A toy building block according to claim 4, wherein ~~the~~ respective studs and sockets on the male and female gender face panels are arranged in 2×2 arrays.

6. (currently amended) A toy building block according to claim 1, including face panels ~~molded moulded~~ of different ~~colored~~ ~~coloured~~ plastics.

7. (currently amended) A toy building block according to claim 1, wherein non-opposed face panels are of substantially ~~a~~ the same face area.

8. (currently amended) A toy building block according to claim 1 wherein opposed face panels are of substantially ~~a~~ the same face area.

9. (currently amended) A toy building block according to claim 1, wherein at least one ~~of~~ the ~~face~~ ~~faces~~ of the block is without connection formation means.

10. (previously presented) A toy building block according to claim 1, wherein a pair of opposed face panels are without connection formation means.

11. (previously presented) A toy building block according to claim 9, wherein one or more face panels without connection means are arranged to carry an indicia, design,

character or other graphic representation.

12. (previously presented) A toy building block according to claim 1, wherein opposed faces of the block are provided with connection formations of opposed gender.

13. (previously presented) A toy building block according to claim 1, wherein the connection formation means for a respective face comprises an array of formations arranged to mate with a complementary array provided on an adjacently connecting block.

14. (original) A toy building block according to claim 13, wherein each respective array comprises formations of all male studs or all female recesses.

15. (currently amended) A toy building block according to any 1, wherein one of a ~~the~~ depth dimension and a ~~the~~ height dimension of the formations is less than one of a width dimension and a diameter dimension of the respective formation.

16. (previously presented) A toy building block according to claim 1, wherein the toy building block is substantially hollow.

17. (currently amended) A toy building block according to claim 1, wherein the face panels are of molded ~~moulded~~ plastic material, the connection formation means being integrally molded ~~moulded~~ with ~~the~~ respective face panels.

18. (currently amended) A toy building block according to claim 1, wherein the block comprises a molded ~~moulded~~ plastic building block comprising a molded ~~moulded~~ shell element including wall panels moulded to be configured rigidly extending transversely to one another in fixed relationship with a defined angle therebetween, and closure means to close a hollow interior of the block, the closure means including one or more wall panel elements to be connected to the shell element.

19. (currently amended) A toy building construction kit comprising a plurality of toy building blocks according to claim 1.

20. – 27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) An assemblage comprising a plurality of adjacently connected blocks according to claim 1, respective blocks including respective image elements having commonly coded image edge portions which permit image elements to be positioned in an edge adjacent relationship in a plurality of configurations in which the commonly coded image edge portions of adjacent elements are matched substantially to one another.

29. (currently amended) A toy building block according to claim 1, comprising a male gender face panel having an array of rows and columns of stud formations and a female gender face panel having an array of socket formations corresponding to the male array of studs, the studs and sockets on the male and female gender face panels are spaced from one another by a distance of substantially $2x$, where x is a distance between an edge of the panel and a nearest extremity of a respective stud or socket.

30. (currently amended) An assemblage according to claim 28, comprising a plurality of image elements having commonly coded image edge portions which permit image elements to be positioned in an edge adjacent relationship in a plurality of configurations in which the commonly coded image edge portions of adjacent elements are matched substantially to one another.

31. (original) An assemblage according to claim 30, wherein a respective image comprises upper and lower edges and two side edges such that the image element is substantially rectangular or square, the upper edge being coded to match with the lower edge and the side edges coded to match one another.

32. (previously presented) An assemblage according to claim 30, wherein a respective image comprises upper and lower edges and two side edges such that the image element is substantially rectangular or square, the image elements being provided with first and second opposed edges of a first common image coding and third and fourth edges of a second common image coding.

33. (currently amended) An assemblage according to claim 32, wherein the coded image ~~element~~ edge portions are coded imagewise such that the coding of the edge portions is effected by portions of an ~~a-general~~ image or scene depicted upon relevant image elements.

34. (currently amended) An assemblage according to claim 30, wherein the coded image ~~element~~ edge portions are color ~~colour~~ coded by means of colored ~~coloured~~ edge zones.

35. (currently amended) An assemblage according to claim 34, wherein the colored ~~coloured~~ edge zones comprise a backing to a primary image, character or other emblem depicted on the image elements ~~element~~.

36. (currently amended) A toy building construction kit or set comprising:

i) a plurality of a toy building blocks according to claim 1 including face panels provided with connection formation means facilitating connection with an adjacently arranged blocks; and,

ii) a plurality of image elements for mounting on substantially planar faces of respective blocks, the image elements having commonly coded image edge portions permitting image element carrying blocks to be positioned in an edge adjacent relationship in a plurality of configurations in which the image edge portions of adjacent elements are matched substantially to one another.

37. (new) A toy building block including:

(a) a first pair of respectively transversely extending face panels provided with male gender connection formation means facilitating connection with respective adjacently arranged blocks, the male gender connection formation means for each face panel comprising at least two substantially identical studs, the first pair of face panels defining male gender face panels; and

(b) a second pair of respectively transversely extending face panels provided with female gender connection formation means facilitating connection with respective adjacently arranged blocks, the female gender connection formation means for each face panel comprising at least two substantially identical sockets, the second pair of face panels defining female gender face panels,

wherein, the sockets are shaped and dimensioned to be push-fit/interference-fit engageable with respective studs on adjacently connecting corresponding blocks, the studs and sockets on the face panels of the block being so spaced and configured to permit connection with opposite gender face panels in a plurality of connection configurations, including a face panel aligned configuration and a face panel overlap configuration,

wherein the studs and sockets on the male and female gender face panels are spaced from one another by a distance of substantially $2x$, where x is a distance between an edge of the panel and a nearest extremity of a respective stud or socket, and

wherein a distance between extremities of an adjacent two of said at least two substantially identical studs is substantially $2x$, and the distance between the extremities of an adjacent two of said at least two substantially identical sockets is substantially $2x$.

38. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, wherein an outer perimeter of the face panels is substantially square such that an overall configuration of the block is

cuboid.

39. (new) A toy building block according to claim 38, wherein respective studs and sockets on the male and female gender face panels are arranged in 2 x 2 arrays.

40. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, including face panels molded of different colored plastics.

41. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, wherein non-opposed face panels are of substantially a same face area.

42. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, wherein opposed face panels are of substantially a same face area.

43. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, wherein at least one of face of the block is without connection formation means.

44. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, wherein a pair of opposed face panels are without connection formation means.

45. (new) A toy building block according to claim 44, wherein one or more face panels without connection means are arranged to carry an indicia, design, character or other graphic representation.

46. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, wherein opposed faces of the block are provided with connection formations of opposed gender.

47. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, wherein the connection formation means for a respective face comprises an array of formations arranged to mate with a complementary array provided on an adjacently connecting block.

48. (new) A toy building block according to claim 47, wherein each respective array comprises formations of all male studs or all female recesses.

49. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, wherein one of a depth dimension and a height dimension of the formations is less than one of a width dimension and a diameter dimension of the respective formation.

50. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, wherein the toy building block is substantially hollow.

51. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, wherein the face panels are of molded plastics material the connection formation means being integrally molded with respective face panels.

52. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, wherein the block comprises a molded plastic building block comprising a molded shell element including wall panels molded to be configured rigidly extending transversely to one another in fixed relationship with a defined angle therebetween, and closure means to close a hollow interior of the block, the closure means including one or more wall panel elements to be connected to the shell element.

53. (new) A toy building block according to claim 37, comprising a male gender face panel having an array of rows and columns of stud formations and a female gender face panel having an array of socket formations corresponding to the male array of studs, the studs and sockets on the male and female gender face panels are spaced from one another by a distance of substantially $2x$, where x is the distance between the edge of the panel and the nearest extremity of a respective stud or socket.

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